

Response to Notice of Non-Compliance
Serial No. 10/680,140
Sughrue Ref: Q77881

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, paragraph 2, please amend as follows:

Figs. 5 and 6 show one a related-art connector disclosed in, for example, Japanese Patent Publication No. 2002-198127A (see the descriptions in pages 3 and 4, and Figs. 4-5 and 6).

Page 9, second paragraph, please amend as follows:

As shown in Fig. 3A, the guide rib 17 is thinned (reduced in thickness) at its proximal portion (which is integrally connected to the side wall 15c) so that the guide rib 17 will not interfere with opposed corner portions 37b of the guide groove 37. A gap is formed between each corner portion 37b and the proximal portion, so that the guide rib 17 can be smoothly inserted into the guide groove 37. The guide rib includes protrusions on side surfaces 17a which project from the thinned portion.

Fourth paragraph, please amend as follows:

Fig. 3B shows a modified example of the guide rib 17 and the guide groove 37. In this case, each of opposed groove surfaces 37a of the guide groove 37 is formed into a convexly-curved surface (i.e., a protrusion), while each of opposite side surfaces 17a of the guide rib 17 is formed into a flat surface. The connector fitting operation is carried out, with the guide rib 17 held in line-contact with the guide groove 37. In this modified example, the proximal portion of the guide rib 17 is kept thick, so that there is an advantage that the strength of the guide rib 17 increases.